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JAPAN.

Report from Yokohama—No further cases of plague.

Assistant Surgeon Moore reports, July 7, as follows: During the week ended July 7, 1903, 5 vessels, having an aggregate personnel of 654 crew and 1,039 passengers, were inspected; 243 steerage passengers and 24 crew were bathed, and 434 pieces of baggage were disinfected.

No additional cases of plague seem to have occurred in Yokohama since my last report. Since the beginning of the present outbreak of plague in Yokohama, May 12, 1903, 11 cases of this disease have been officially reported, 10 of which terminated fatally.

MEXICO.

Yellow fever and sanitary conditions in Yucatan.

Consul Thompson, at Progreso, reports, July 15, as follows:

That many more cases of yellow fever have occurred this season than is usually the case is unfortunately true, but this is almost entirely due to the fact that there are a great many more nonimmune foreigners in Yucatan than there have ever been before since the last war. The recent period of general prosperity, and above all the remarkable activity in railroad building, has attracted a floating population of foreigners of at least 6,000 souls. Ninety-five per cent of these are of the laboring class, and are mainly of Mexican, Spanish, or Italian nationalities. Their methods of living are such that one would expect a serious mortality among them. Instead of this the fact is that remarkably few cases of serious sickness have occurred among them. Dysentery and paludic fevers are most in evidence, and these diseases naturally prevail to the greatest extent among the hardest drinkers. During the six months ending June 30 there were in Merida, with a population of 58,533, 122 cases of yellow fever; deaths from yellow fever, 54; estimated floating population during same period, not included in census, 3,500. During the same period there were in Progreso, with a population of 8,398, 9 cases of yellow fever; 1 death. Estimated floating population during same period not included in above census report, 900.

These figures with all that they imply do not to me indicate that a state of epidemic exists either in Merida or in Progreso, or that a worse condition of affairs exists in Yucatan than in Tampico, where houses have been burned and dead bodies found in the outskirts.

Yucatan, under its energetic and progressive governor, Señor Oleario Molina, is paving the streets and carrying out a complicated system of drainage in Merida. As rapidly as possible sanitary laws of the most modern type are being made and enforced. Unless the unforeseen happens Merida will soon be as healthy and as free from infectious diseases as is Habana to-day.

Progreso has never at its worst been an unhealthy port. Its position by the open sea and upon a sand spit gives prima facie evidence of its general healthfulness.